

# OCTOBER

FOR  
THIRTY-THREE YEARS  
COFFEE COUNTY'S  
LEADING NEWSPAPER

VOLUME XXXV.

# THE ELBA CLIPPER

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1931

FOR LATEST  
NEWS OF INTEREST  
READ  
THE ELBA CLIPPER

## MAYOR R. L. COOPER SHOOTS SELF AT HIS OFFICE TUESDAY A.M.

**Prominent Lumberman, Civic Leader and Popular Citizen Sends Bullet Through Head; Financial Reverses and General Depressive Conditions Thought To Be Cause**

The entire community was shocked and deeply grieved on Tuesday morning when news was spread of the death of Mr. R. L. Cooper, Mayor of the City of Elba. One of the most prominent citizens of this section of Alabama, he had his office in the office of his lumber yard in West Elba with a bullet hole through his head. Circumstances surrounding the tragedy are not known.

The fallers were active pallbearers: J. O. English, P. F. King, O. Dowling, S. B. Young, J. Parker and G. Q. Rutledge. Hayes, D. J. Brooks, J. C. Mays, J. H. Armor, L. P. Martin, W. E. Owen, W. B. Rainey, W. F. Parker, W. C. Hayes, Mac Mathis, Foreman; C. P. Hayes, D. J. L. Lutbert, M. C. English, A. J. Morrow, J. L. Morris, J. E. Mullins, and others. They conversed for some time. Mr. Mullins came up in town on some business and when he returned to the office he found his employer dead on the floor.

One witness at the inquest, who was a man of reliable character, stated he had seen a pistol stuck in the pocket of the deceased's coat when he looked out to see Mr. Cooper in his office with the bullet hole in his head. One later heard another shot. One bullet left its mark on the door of Mr. Cooper's car, which was parked in front of his office, having gone through the door and striking the lower end of the fender, indicating that it came from the front of the car. It is surmised that the gun went off as it was taken from the pocket in the door. The position of the body indicated that he did not struggle after falling. The bullet entered at the upper part of the right temple and came out at the back of the head. The gun was found near his feet.

Mr. Cooper was born at Phenix City, Ala., on Dec. 12, 1881. He came to Elba about 15 years ago from Brantley, where he resided for several years. He engaged in lumbering here and was the owner of the R. L. Cooper Lumber Co., which he had started, and also had other business interests throughout the country. His lumber plant was the largest which he had in operation here, which has been in operation here for many years.

As Mayor of the City of Elba, Mr. Cooper was a man of considerable reputation and was serving his second term as such official. During the flood of 1929 he was instrumental in his efforts to make relief to those in need and to make his home habitable, and spent his time and personal funds in this work, lecturing on the same in his business interests. For his heroic work during that particular period the people in his debt of gratitude which now can be seen.

Mr. Cooper was also president of the Elba Lions Club, an organization in which he took an active part in the numerous annual meetings and had been planned and put under way during his term of office and the club will keenly miss him and its members.

In all public affairs Mr. Cooper took an active interest and was a leader in the work that was espoused. During the political campaign last fall he was Chairman of the County Democratic Central Committee and was instrumental in getting Mrs. Eula Bullard elected.

Mr. Roy Bullard of Curtis was invited to speak at the meeting. There were fourteen members present.

**Y. W. A. CLUB MEETS**—  
The Y. W. A.'s met Monday evening at the home of Mrs. B. S. Franklin.

**Song.—Zion Haste;**  
**Scripture—Revelation 17;**  
**Prayer—Mrs. Franklin;**  
**Discussion of business;**  
**Business meeting in Mission Book**

**Mr. Franklin Dismissed with the Watchword.** There were fourteen members present.

**CELEBRATED 7th**

Mr. Luther Vaughan entertained a number of little boys and girls in his home on Monday afternoon in honor of the seventh birthday of his little son, Lamont.

Games were played on the lawn

and the children enjoyed the

afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Cardwell of Troy visited Elba relatives last Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Crook and Mrs. J. W. Kendrick visited in Enterprise Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Marley and Miss Nan Marley spent Friday in Montgomery.

Mr. Cooper is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nell Bancroft Cooper, and the following children: Robert, Jr.; John, Mary, and Dorothy. His mother, Mrs. Margaret Cooper, of Elba, two sisters, Mrs. W. F. Cooper of Brantley and Mrs. Dave Vaughan.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lee of Enterprise were guests of Mr. Lee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee Sunday.

Mrs. Annie Lee of Jacksonville, Fla., is visiting relatives in Elba this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Make, of Cedar Hill, Spring, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Rows Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Indian were wed Saturday at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Vaughn.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lee of Enterprise were guests of Mr. Lee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee Sunday.

Mrs. Annie Lee of Jacksonville, Fla., is visiting relatives in Elba this week.

Chevrolet and Ford owners can now save \$5.50 on every \$10.00 investment covering their chassis lubrications and oil changes.

Ask about these Service Certificates which also include extra servicing for which there is no charge.

Mr. Annie King and Miss Anna King of Andalusia were wed Saturday at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Vaughn.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clark of Union Springs were guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Rows Sunday.

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